

## The Natural Bridge

Height, 215 Feet  
Width, 100 Feet  
Span, 90 Feet



This wonderful structure overlooks the James River Valley, being on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains and at the center of the State of Virginia. It ranks among the great wonders of the world. It approaches Niagara in grandeur, and exceeds it in height and width. It is a single block of limestone, with many shades of color, wide enough to span a Broadway and high enough to throw in shadow the turrets of Trinity Church. The walls are smooth as if cut with chisels, and there is no sign of a joint or seam. Under it, men look like boys, and trees like bushes.

The visitor follows a tumbling cascade down a deep fissure in the mountain, under some of the largest arborescent trees in the world, and turning down a line of steps cut in the precipice, suddenly finds himself by a swift stream in a dark canyon, and the great bridge far above him. He passes into the awful hush of its twilight into the conscious presence of the Creator. Birds high in the air pass under the blue arch; the place is full of echoes. The story of its building has never been told. It is a mighty monolith.

The Natural Bridge Park is a plateau 1,500 feet above the sea, and comprises about 1,500 acres, generously traversed by smooth, safe carriage roads, together with numerous walks and bridge-paths. A large hotel and cottages, chief of which are the Marshall and Jefferson, located on a lovely lawn, luxuriant with blue grass, and shaded by many forest trees. Police and efficient employees.

Connected with the hotel and under same management is a first-class livery, where at all times may be had both driving and saddle horses, comfortable vehicles, with careful and courteous drivers. Hacks meet all trains.

At a place where the sportsman can share his outing with his family, and all can enjoy a most picturesque nature, and at the same time angle for the best and gamiest fish in the country. A system of connected paths, miles in length, through the woods, along the brooks and over the mountains, are maintained by the Company. The climate and scenery are not surpassed in America. It is visited annually by thousands who seek health and pleasure, and the beautiful and wonderful in nature. The glen abounds in hundreds of different varieties of wild flowers, ferns and mosses, which are a source of delight to the lover of nature's beauties. The Company owns the Rockbridge White Sulphur Springs, which is a drive of a few miles from the hotel. All these waters are considered very fine for medicinal purposes. The magnesia water has been pronounced by some specialists as very successful in the treatment of stomach troubles.

**Swimming Pool**  
A splendid concrete swimming pool, 50x80 feet, has been constructed. The pool has a graduated depth ranging from three to seven feet, so that swimming and bathing can be indulged in with perfect safety.

**The Lake**  
About three-fourths of a mile below the Bridge a concrete dam has been constructed, which makes a lake of the natural stream, extending nearly to the Bridge, on which are pleasure boats at the disposal of the guests of the hotel. Thus situated in the gorge, winding in and out, this lake makes a most attractive pleasure resort.

**Salt-petre Cave**  
Salt-petre Cave is chiefly interesting because it was worked for nitre during the War of 1812 and by the Confederate Government in 1861.

**The Lost River**  
The Lost River is a subterranean stream, reached through a low archway which has been made in the mountain side. The torrent dashes from some lofty cavern to one below the creek. The waters are cool, clear and pleasant to the taste.

For further information, address  
Booklets at C. H. PAXTON, Manager,  
Richmond Transfer Co., Natural Bridge Hotel.

innumerable apartments, with their snowy-white concave of a thousand various forms.

**The Natural Bridge.**  
Notable among the great natural wonders of America is the Natural Bridge of Virginia. There are, indeed, few objects in nature which entirely all the soul like this bridge in its unique and simple grandeur. In consideration of the perfection of its adaptation to circumstances, the simplicity of its design, the sublimity of its proportions, the spectator experiences a fullness of satisfaction which familiarity only serves to increase.

The rocks of the bridge and the jutting buttresses are a superb study in color, scarcely equalled for variety and beauty of tone. Exactly overhead, on the highest spring of the arch, is the figure of a gigantic spread eagle. On one side, twenty-five feet above the stream, appear the initials of George Washington.

A grand park of many hundred acres surrounds the bridge, the natural beauty of which is striking. Fine drives lead over the vast domain, and picturesque paths mark the way for pedestrians or horsemen through the wilderness inaccessible to carriages.

Many points of interest are contained in the park beside the overtopping attraction of the bridge, notable ones being Salt-petre Cave, the Profile, Pulpit Rock and Lace Water Falls. The illumination of the bridge, which is frequently done for the entertainment of visitors, is well worth seeing.

In the immediate vicinity of the bridge the James River breaks through the obstructing mountains amid as grand and beautiful surroundings as those which beautify the passage of the Potomac through the historic gap at Harper's Ferry.

**Old Point Comfort, Va.**  
(Fortress Monroe.)

Located on a point of land washed on the one hand by the waters of Chesapeake Bay and on the other by Hampton Roads, this always delightful coast resort of the Old Dominion is celebrated not only for its natural advantages of climate and location, but for its great hotels and the social life which attracts so many eminent representatives of all classes.

Surrounded by points of historic interest, Old Point Comfort possesses attractions which one can hardly appreciate until he visits it. At Jamestown, early in the seventeenth century, a little band of English colonists came to these shores and settled. At Yorktown the turning point in the great war against English tyranny and oppression was reached, while at Williamsburg the policy of the colonies was framed by those brave soldiers and statesmen who placed the foundations of this great republic on so solid a basis that though the storms of war have waged and beat against them, they still stand in the light of the world. Between the States the Peninsula on which Old Point Comfort is situated was made memorable through the great peninsula campaign. The waters of Hampton Roads need no introduction, for to all is known the story of that greatest of naval duels between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimack."

**Virginia Beach, Va.**  
This resort, situated directly on the Atlantic ocean, eighteen miles east of Norfolk, is a beautiful mile and a half of beach, with many excellent points of attraction. Its fine, sloping beach, amply provided with bathing facilities, makes it one of the finest bathing resorts on the Atlantic coast, having the advantage of an equable climate, due to the close proximity of the Gulf Stream. Stretching back from the beach for five miles is a beautiful pine forest, through which excellent roads and delightful paths have been cut, affording pleasant excursions by carriage or automobile, returning by the hard beach drive along the shore.

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## Warm Sulphur Springs.

The Warm Sulphur Springs are located in the centre of a group of the most celebrated mineral springs in the State, and in the midst of that region of country familiarly known as the "Mountains of Virginia," which has so long been famous for the beauty and grandeur of its scenery, its delightful, salubrious and invigorating climate, and above all, for the remedial and restorative properties of its medicinal springs, which, in so many cases, have restored to health and vigor suffering invalids upon whom all the resources of medical science have been exhausted in vain. They are five miles from the Hot and eight miles from the Healing Springs, while within a radius of forty miles are such well-known resorts as the Greenbrier, White Sulphur, Rockbridge Alum, Old Sweet, the Sweet Chalybeate Springs, Natural Bridge, Millboro, Goshen, etc.

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At the head of the Shenandoah Valley is Staunton, a charming town in itself, and the station from which is reached Mount Elliott Springs, which lies in the foothills of the Alleghenies, at an elevation of 2,350 feet.

The pretty town of Basic is situated in the Valley of the Shenandoah, which at this point is narrow, the Blue Ridge and its foothills shutting in the valley from the outside world. The climate is pleasant during the summer months, and many noted watering places in the vicinity afford recreation and healthfulness.

Perched high up on a shelf of the Blue Ridge is Afton, commanding a view of many miles, in which mountain and valley, forest and stream, the meadows in the highest state of cultivation, the hillside covered with trellised vines, all the eye with delight. Further north, in a cleft of the mountain overlooking the valley, is

Rawley Springs, nine miles from Harrisonburg, on the Southern Railway, at an elevation of 2,000 feet above sea level. The atmosphere is dry, pure and invigorating, and free from prostrating heat, even in midsummer.

The Luray Caverns, located in the Shenandoah Valley, midway between Harrisonburg and Roanoke, are admitted to be among the most wonderful examples of nature's handiwork ever discovered. In them one finds himself immersed in gloom and surrounded on all sides by grotesque shapes, which his excited fancy clothes with ghastly appearances.

There are a succession of chambers, each named from some striking resemblance to well-known objects, and each filled with the curious creations of a subterranean world. They are connected by passages, which appear to have been carved by some giant hand, grottoes, adorned with the richest ornamentation; cascades of sparkling brilliancy; and forms and figures of infinite shape and variety inspire emotions of wonder, which grow with each new revelation.

The Grottoes of the Shenandoah, lying some distance south, which partake of the general nature of the Luray Caves, are in many respects equally as beautiful. The halls and chambers here are larger than those of Luray, and are characterized by the same drapery-like formations. No language can convey an idea of the vastness and sublimity of some of these, or of the exquisite beauty and grandeur of its